

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1A-1E. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1A-1E, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1A-1E.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 8-14 and 17-22 are presently active in this case, Claims 1, 8-9, 10, 11 and 17-20 amended, and Claims 5-7 and 15-16 canceled by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 2557269A; Claims 1-5, 8-14 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art (alternatively JP 2003-306784A and JP 06-057453A) in view of DE 2557269A; Claims 7 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art (alternatively JP 2003-306784A and JP 06-057453A) in view of DE 2557269A, and further in view of JP 07-066528A; and Claims 6 and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

First, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Culbert for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 6 and 15. In order to expedite issuance of a patent in this case, independent Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include the subject matter of canceled allowable Claims 6 and 15 respectively. Applicants have also amended the dependent claims to be consistent with the changes to the independent claim. Therefore, Claims 1 and 10 are now in condition for allowance. Further, as Claims 2-4 and 8-9 depend from Claim 1, and Claims 11-14 and 17-22 depend from Claim 10, these claims also patentably define over the cited references.

With regard to the objection to the drawings, submitted herewith is a replacement sheet including Figures 1A-1E having the legend "Prior Art". Thus, the objection to the drawings is overcome.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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